REMARKS

I. Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has characterized the claims and encompassing the following groups:

Group I, claim(s) 1, 3-6 and 8-12, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a fibrinogen binding polypeptide, comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: X.

Group II, claim(s) 2-6 and 8-12, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding an adhesion factor comprising nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: X.

Group III, claim(s) 7, 18, 20, 31 and 46-48, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 222.

Group IV, claim(s) 13 and 14, drawn to a fibrinogen-binding polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: X

Group V, claim(s) 13 and 14, drawn to an adhesion factor comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: X.

Group VI, claim(s) 19, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 222, further comprising an immunostimulatory substance.

Group VII, claim(s) 19, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding for a polypeptide comprising an amino acid motif of SEQ ID NO: 222, further comprising an immunostimulatory substance.

Group VIII, claims) 21, 22 and 24, drawn to an antibody or antigen binding part thereof, which binds to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 222.

Group IX, claim(s) 25, drawn to a method for identifying an antagonist capable of reducing or inhibiting the activity of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 222.

Group X, claim(s) 25, drawn to a method for identifying an antagonist capable of binding to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 222.

Group XI, claim(s) 26 and 49, drawn to a method for identifying an antagonist capable of reducing or inhibiting the activity of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 222 comprising a) providing the isolated polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 222, b) providing an interaction partner of said polypeptide, c) providing a candidate antagonist, d) reacting the Polypeptide, the interaction partner of the polypeptide and the candidate antagonist, and e) determining whether the candidate antagonist inhibits or reduces the activity of the polypeptide.

Group XII, claim(s) 27 and 49, drawn to a method for identifying an antagonist capable of reducing or inhibiting the activity of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 222 comprising a) providing the isolated polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 222, b) providing an interaction partner of said polypeptide, c) allowing interaction of said polypeptide to said interaction partner to form an interaction complex, d) providing a candidate antagonist, e) allowing a competition reaction to occur between the candidate antagonist and the interaction complex and f) determining whether the candidate antagonist inhibits or reduces the activities of the polypeptide with the interaction partner.

Group XIII, claim(s) 28, drawn to an antagonist capable of reducing or inhibiting the activity of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 222 comprising a) providing the isolated polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 222, b) providing an interaction partner of said polypeptide, c) providing a candidate antagonist, d) reacting the Polypeptide, the interaction partner of the polypeptide and the candidate antagonist, and e) determining whether the candidate antagonist inhibits or reduces the activity of the polypeptide.

Group XIV, claim(s) 28, drawn to an antagonist capable of reducing or inhibiting the activity of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 222 comprising a) providing the isolated polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 222, b) providing an interaction partner of said polypeptide, c) allowing interaction of said polypeptide to said interaction partner to form an interaction complex, d) providing a candidate antagonist, e) allowing a competition reaction to occur between the candidate antagonist and the interaction complex and f) determining whether the candidate antagonist inhibits or reduces the activities of the polypeptide with the interaction partner.

Group XV, claim(s) 29, drawn to a process for *in vitro* diagnosis of a bacterial infection, comprising determining the presence of the nucleic acid molecule of an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding for the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 222.

Group XVI, claim(s) 29, drawn to a process for *in vitro* diagnosis of a bacterial infection, comprising determining the presence of the nucleic acid molecule of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 222.

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Group XVII, claim(s) 30, drawn to a process for *in vitro* diagnosis of a disease related to expression of the presence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 222, comprising determining the presence of a nucleic acid sequence encoding said polypeptide.

Group XVIII, claim(s) 35, drawn to an aptamer or spiegelmers which binds to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 222.

Group XIX, claim(s) 37, drawn to a ribozymes, antisense nucleic acids or siRNA which binds to the nucleic acid molecule encoding for the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 222.

Group XX, claim(s) 18, 20, 31 and 38-45, drawn to an isolated polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 222 which binds to a Group B streptococcus.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant hereby elects for prosecution at this time claims characterized as Group IV, (Claims 13 and 14), drawn to the fibrinogen-binding polypeptide.

The non-elected claims are hereby withdrawn without prejudice. In addition, and insofar as the Examiner has further imposed a restriction requirement as to a specific antigen, Applicants elect the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11.

II. Conclusion

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

Respectfully submitted,

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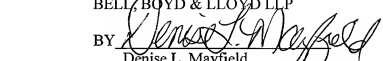
BY 
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